Examiner's Comment

1.   Receipt is acknowledged of an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed after allowance on 05/14/2010. The information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner and an annotated copy of the PTO-1449 has been attached to the instant office action.

2.   The examiner considers the references of Raftery et al. ("Using Bayesian Model Averaging to Calibrate Forecast Ensembles", Monthly Weather Review 133 (2005), pp 1-32) and Friedman et al. ("Sequential Update of Bayesian Network Structure", UAI'97, pp 1-10), both of which were supplied and discussed with the applicants prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement dated May 14, 2010 and therefore a copy of these references is not included in this communication. Both Raftery et al. and Friedman et al. are considered to be relevant in view of the IDS. The reference to Raftery discloses Bayesian model selection with multiple models. However, Raftery does not teach one model is influenced by a result of the probabilistic reasoning associated with another Bayesian network mode and updated with recommendations. Friedman teaches generating or updating a new Bayesian model based on the existing model. The model generation differs from the model identification in that models identified are among the stored (so, known) Bayesian models.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3.   In view of the teachings of both Raftery et al. and Friedman et al. and the prior art

cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 14, 2010, claims 6-8, 10 and 13

remain allowable over the prior art above since when reading the claims in light of the

specification, as per MPEP § 2111.01, the above references of record alone or in

combination fail to disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the

independent claims 6 and 8, including, at least the limitation of:

in claim 6,

> "...a model selecting unit for selecting a first Bayesian network model from the
> stored Bayesian network models based on a recommendation condition
> associated with the recipient",

> "… identifying learning models associated with the first Bayesian network model
> based on the stored learning model information" and

> "… wherein the identified learning models include at least the first Bayesian
> network model and a second Bayesian network model, different from the first
> Bayesian network model, influenced by a result of the probabilistic reasoning
> associated with the first Bayesian network model", and

in claim 8,

> "… a model selecting unit for selecting a Bayesian network model from the stored
> Bayesian network models based on a recommendation condition associated with
> the recipient",

"… a learning data obtaining unit for obtaining learning data used to bring for

generalizing the specialized learning models closer to a general model, wherein

the model learning unit uses the learning data to learn the learning models", and

"… a learning reflection parameter storage unit storing learning reflection

parameters indicating respective degrees to which the learning data is reflected

in the learning of the learning models, wherein the model learning unit uses the

obtained learning data to learn the learning modes, such that the obtained

learning data is reflected in learning of the learning models to the respective

degrees indicated by the learning reflection parameters".

Because claims 7, 10 and 13 depend directly or indirectly from claims 6 and/or 8,

these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons noted above for claims

6 and 8.

Correspondence Information

4.   Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to LiWu Chang, who may be reached Monday through

Thursday, between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 270-3809

or facsimile transmission (571) 270-4809 or email li-wu.chang@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, Donald Sparks, can be reached at (571)272-4201. Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Finally, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Moreover, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) toll-free @ 1-866-217-9197.

/L. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 2129
May 18, 2010

/Donald Sparks/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2129